

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

The Kentucky Instructional Data System (KIDS) Progress Report

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** In 2005, the Kentucky Department of Education applied for and was awarded \$5.8M in federal funding from the Institute of Education Sciences to support development of a statewide longitudinal data system. The purpose of this ongoing federal grant program is to assist states in development of systems that will both ease the task of federal reporting, such as for NCLB, and allow for improved use of data for analysis and decision-making. This award, the most provided to any state, has enabled the creation of what has become known as the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System (KIDS).

- **Purpose of KIDS**  
Data collected by KDE have traditionally been housed in a myriad of “silos” making them unable to be used to uncover meaningful relationships, such as those between interventions and a student’s level of academic preparation. KIDS is a mechanism for drawing together and viewing, in a single location, longitudinal information from our various data silos and systems such as financial, student, assessment, etc. This makes it possible to perform analysis and display a variety of reports relating data from individual students, groups of students aggregated by demographic elements, program participation, or by school and district. Additionally, it provides increased value by allowing research across multiple districts or groups/regions of districts.
- **Access to KIDS**  
The KIDS project has focused on making these data available not only to state-level administrators for improved decision making, but also to educators for the improvement of teaching and learning. This focus on instructional use of data has been a unique philosophy compared to most of the grantee states and is one of the reasons Kentucky was awarded the greatest amount of funding in Round 1 of the grant applications. Currently, access is limited to a small group of pilot districts, all of the HSEs and Area Gap Coordinators, and less than 20 other KDE staff.
- **Funding/Cost of KIDS**  
The implementation of KIDS is federally-funded, as mentioned above, via a \$5.8M grant award. Ongoing sustainability of the subsequent system is the responsibility of the grantee, as stated and agreed to in our original agreement to accept funds. KIDS is being made available to districts and schools at no cost, but, over time, will end up saving many times its implementation and

maintenance costs due to its centralized nature. Preliminary estimates showed that if each district were to plan, develop, and implement even modest longitudinal data warehouses individually, the overall cost to the Commonwealth would be upwards of \$150M just for implementation. Sustainability of these individual data warehouses would likely be in the tens of millions of dollars each year. Sustainability of KIDS, by contrast, is much less at an estimated \$1.5M per year for basic maintenance and enhancements.

Funding via the original grant ends in December of 2008. A “no-cost extension” is being requested which will allow existing grant funds to be used past the original project end-date. This extension, if approved, will not provide additional funding, it merely extends the date for draw downs. \$600K of E-Rate funds has been identified to address KIDS sustainability through the end of the fiscal year. No additional ongoing funds have been dedicated or identified.

- Update/Progress Report
  - Currently closing out Phase 2 of 3. Phase 3 requirements gathering and design has begun. Expect Phase 3 to extend through Q1 of 2009.
  - Development of online training continues with help from KVS.
  - Broad rollout to KDE data experts continues
    - Initial training of Highly Skilled Educators was very successful
  - Current data include:
    - Basic student non-academic information
    - Assessment data – CATS, PLAN, Explore
    - Staff information – PSD/CSD
    - Group and Programs
    - Annual Financial Report
    - School directory
  - Data to be included soon:
    - Scholastic Audit/School Improvement
    - KSIS
    - Advanced Placement
    - ACT
    - High School Feedback
    - Teacher Certification
    - KETS Technology Readiness Survey

**Policy Issue(s):**

Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Sustainability, and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

- Program effectiveness evaluation and correlation (e.g., Extended School Services, Early Childhood Education, Tier of Assistance interventions)

- Identify consistently higher-performing schools so that educators can learn from best practice
- Identify relationships between veteran educators and school performance
- Follow academic progress throughout a student's educational career
- Performance data ranging from individual students to cohorts to statewide
- Assist the refocusing of secondary education to prepare a higher percentage of students for success in rigorous high school courses, postsecondary education, and work
- Data quality evaluation and recommendations
- Faster access to more accurate data for decision making at the local district, state education agency and legislative levels

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Deputy Commissioner

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Commissioner of Education

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